

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/C:AISAACS:BDT

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

SCS:CANDERSON (PHONE)

ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

H:ASCHNEE (INFO)

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R 202345Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652

TAGS: CI, CASC

SUBJECT: INQUIRY RE JAIME BARRIOS

REF: THOMPSON KARKASHIAN LTR 12/7/73

1. SECRETARY HAS RECEIVED PERSONAL REQUEST FROM HARVARD FACULTY MEMBERS TO LOOK INTO STATUS OF FORMER CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL JAIME BARRIOS, UNDERSTOOD TO BE UNDER DETENTION. SINCE BARRIOS IS WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN CHILEAN ECONOMIC CIRCLES, PERHAPS EMBASSY CAN ASCERTAIN CURRENT STATUS WITHOUT MAKING INQUIRY THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS SOUGHT TO LIMIT TO BARE MINIMUM THOSE INQUIRIES IT HAS REFERRED TO EMBASSY REGARDING CHILEAN NATIONALS. DEPARTMENT'S NORMAL PRACTICE, AS SUGGESTED IN REFERENCE, HAS BEEN TO REFER INQUIRERS TO CHILEAN EMBASSY OR TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CHANNELS, AND TO URGE INTERESTED PARTIES TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH CHILE NOW THAT COMMUNICATIONS ARE FULLY NORMALIZED. DEPARTMENT BELIVES, HOWEVER, THAT SOME INQUIRIES MAY MERIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIAL EFFORT, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM AMCIT RELATIVES OF

CHILEAN NATIONALS OR WHERE STRONG U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IS PRESENT. WHERE POSSIBLE, DEPARTMENT WILL IN SUCH CASES TRY TO FURNISH NAMES, ADDRESSES AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF PRIVATE PARTIES IN CHILE WHO MAY HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF INDIVIDUAL'S SITUATION, AND THUS OBVIATE NEED TO

TAX FOREIGN MINISTRY RESOURCES AND GOOD WILL. RUSH

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